

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AID-05 SP-02 INR-05

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R 140400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2130

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LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON, NEA, AND ASST. ADMINISTRATOR
NOOTER, NESA, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AF, US, EAID

SUBJ: PROPOSED HELMAND VALLEY AID PROJECTS

REF: STATE 59802

1. USAID AFGHANISTAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRED SLIGH AND
AGRICULTURE DIVISION CHIEF JOHN WILSON LEFT FOR WASHINGTON
ON APRIL 11 WITH OUR REVISED HELMAND VALLEY DRAINAGE PROJECT
PAPER AND THE SCOPE OF WORK DATA FOR THE PROPOSED HELMAND/
ARGHANDAB SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE SURVEY. I HAVE CAREFULLY
FOLLOWED THE INTENSIVE WORK DONE BY USAID WITH THE GOVERNMENT
OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) AND INTERNALLY OVER LAST THREE WEEKS IN
REVISING AND STRENGTHENING DRAINAGE PROJECT PAPER. ALSO, I
HAVE READ THE REFINED SCOPE OF WORK PAPER FOR THE SURVEY AND
HAVE CONDUCTED IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF BOTH EFFORTS.

2. IN MY JUDGEMENT BOTH PROJECTS PRESENT HIGHLY FEASIBLE AND
WORKABLE PLANS WHICH ARE CAREFULLY PHASED TO PROVIDE
MINIMUM RISK IN THE DEVELOPMENT A SENSE, AND YET MOVE FORWARD
AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS PRUDENT MANAGEMENT AND AFGHAN CAPABILITY
ALLOW TOWARD A MEANINGFUL U.S. RESPONSE TO IMPORTANT
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AFGHAN NEEDS.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE AFGHANS ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN GOA HELMAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN NOVEMBER 1974. AS BOB NOOTER WILL RECALL, HE AND DAN PARKER WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY TO CONSIDER THE DRAINAGE AND SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE SURVEY PROJECTS DURING THEIR VISIT IN JANUARY. THE FORMER, ACTING AS THE SECRETARY'S REPRESENTATIVE, VISITED THE VALLEY AND AGREED TO TRY AND START THESE PROJECTS USING FY 75 FINANCING. IN SUBSEQUENT WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE USAID/GOA CONSULTATIONS IN KABUL AND IN THE VALLEY. THE AFGHANS, AS A RESULT, NATURALLY HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS THAT WE WILL UNDERTAKE BOTH PROJECTS.

4. YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE WERE INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO "GET BACK INTO THE VALLEY", LARGELY BECAUSE WE WERE NOT CERTAIN THAT THE GOA WOULD DO ITS SHARE TO MAKE A RENEWED EFFORT IN THE VALLEY A SUCCESS. I AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THESE PROJECTS HAVE THE HIGHEST GOA PRIORITY FROM PRESIDENT DAOUD ON DOWN. THIS PRIORITY HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR THE VALLEY. WE BELIEVE THESE TWO PROJECTS ALSO MAKE GOOD DEVELOPMENT SENSE AND THEREFORE ARE RESPONSIVE BOTH POLITICALLY AND TECHNICALLY TO OUR OBJECTIVES HERE.

5. I HOPE THE ABOVE VIEWS WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU IN SUPPORTING FAVORABLE AND EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROJECTS FOR FY 75 FINANCING -- AN ACTION I CONSIDER ESSENTIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF A USEFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT.
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